



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 62

January Session, 2017

Senate Bill No. 804

Senate, March 14, 2017

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. MOORE, M. of the 22nd Dist. and SEN. MARKLEY, J. of the 16th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A SOCIAL WORK IN-HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-605b of the general statutes is repealed and
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services, within available
4 appropriations, may establish and operate a [community-based
5 services] Social Work In-Home Support program for persons with
6 disabilities (1) who are between the ages of eighteen and sixty-four
7 years, and (2) who meet the eligibility requirements specified in
8 sections 17b-4(a)-1 to 17b-4(a)-6, inclusive, of the regulations of
9 Connecticut state agencies. Such eligibility requirements with respect
10 to income and assets shall not apply to persons eligible for medical
11 assistance under section 17b-597 who were receiving community-
12 based services on October 1, 2000.

13 [(b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall determine whether a
 14 person eligible for medical assistance under section 17b-597 who is
 15 receiving community-based services on October 1, 2000, is eligible for
 16 personal care assistance under section 17b-605a. Such person shall not
 17 qualify for community-based services in the event such person may be
 18 enrolled in the personal care assistance program at the time such
 19 person is disqualified from receiving community-based services.]

20 (b) Any person participating in a Medicaid home and community-
 21 based services program shall not be eligible for the Social Work In-
 22 Home Support program, unless a particular service is not otherwise
 23 available under a Medicaid home and community-based services
 24 program.

25 (c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall implement the policies
 26 and procedures necessary to carry out the provisions of subsection (a)
 27 of this section while in the process of adopting such policies and
 28 procedures in regulation form, provided notice of intent to adopt the
 29 regulations is published [in the Connecticut Law Journal within] on
 30 the department's Internet web site and the eRegulations System not
 31 later than twenty days after implementation. Such policies and
 32 procedures shall be valid until the time final regulations are effective.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2017	17b-605b

HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill does not result in an overall fiscal impact to the state. The bill limits eligibility for certain Medicaid waiver clients in the Social Work In-Home Support program. It is assumed any savings associated with no longer supporting waiver clients will be used to fund services for individuals on the Social Work In-Home Support program wait list. The program is funded under the federal Social Services Block Grant at approximately \$3.9 million annually.

The Out Years***State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 804*****AN ACT CONCERNING A SOCIAL WORK IN-HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill renames the Department of Social Service's (DSS) community-based services program as the Social Work In-Home Support program. The program, which is funded through a federal block grant, provides non-medical home care services to adults age 18 to 64 with physical or mental disabilities.

The bill makes anyone participating in a Medicaid home- and community-based services program ineligible for the block grant-funded program, unless a particular service is not otherwise available under the Medicaid program. (Connecticut has 10 home- and community-based Medicaid waivers and DSS also provides Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services through its Community First Choice program.)

The bill also eliminates a provision requiring the DSS commissioner to disqualify from the block grant-funded program people who were receiving such services on October 1, 2000 and who were eligible for, and could be enrolled in, the personal care assistance Medicaid waiver program. It makes a conforming change to require that DSS post regulations on its website and on the eRegulations system rather than in the Connecticut Law Journal.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/03/2017)